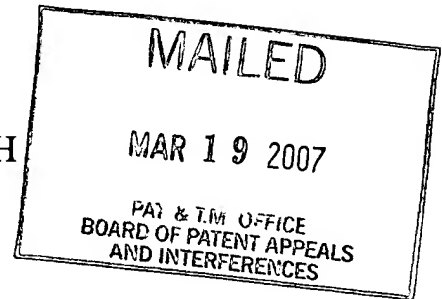


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte WILLIAM R. FINCH

Application No. 09/844,747



ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received electronically at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on November 17, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matter requiring attention prior to docketing is identified below:

On May 5, 2006, appellant filed an Appeal Brief under 37 CFR § 41.37. A review of the file reveals that the "Summary of Claimed Subject Matter," as required by 41.37(c)(1)(v), is not properly set forth. 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v) which states:

(v) ***Summary of claimed subject matter.*** A concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, which shall refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters. For each independent claim involved in the appeal and for each dependent claim argued separately under the provisions of paragraph (c)(1)(vii) of this section, every means plus function and step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, must be identified and the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as corresponding to each claimed function must be set forth with reference to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

As indicated, the independent claims must be mapped to the disclosure, including specification page and line number, and, if applicable, drawing and reference characters.


Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner:

- 1) to hold the Appeal Brief of May 5, 2006 defective;
- 2) to notify applicant to file a substitute Appeal Brief in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37;
- 3) for the examiner to consider the substitute Appeal Brief, and if necessary, vacate the examiner's answer mailed July 28, 2006, and issue a revised examiner's answer in accordance with the new rules effective September 13, 2004;

- 4) have a complete copy of the substitute Appeal Brief and any subsequent Examiner's Answer scanned into the record; and
- 5) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By: 

PATRICK J. NOLAN
Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator
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PJN/dal

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